Region 3 Weekly Spring Fire and Fuels Assessment (*3/27 – 4/2/2015)*

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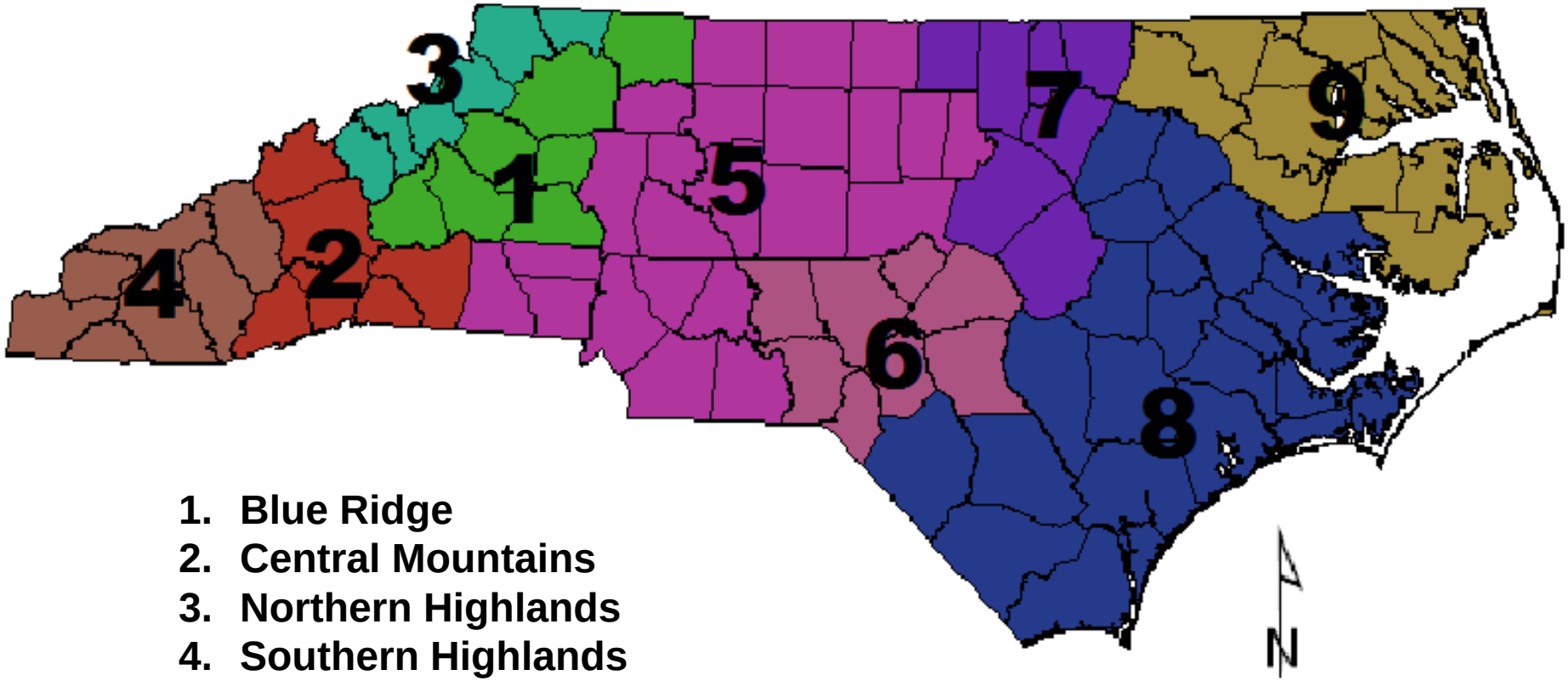
North Carolina Forest Service
BRIDGE Program

NC Fire Danger Rating Areas



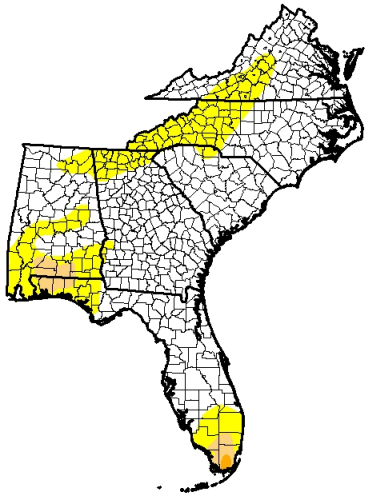
1. Blue Ridge
2. Central Mountains
3. Northern Highlands
4. Southern Highlands
5. Western Piedmont
6. Sandhills
7. Eastern Piedmont
8. Southern Coastal Plain
9. Northern Coastal Plain

Summary

- Except for Swain and Macon Counties, less than 1” of precipitation fell across the region in the last seven days
  - Swain and Macon received between 1” – 1.5”.
- No changes in drought conditions in the last seven days.
- After Fridays Cold Front passage, expect the region to dry out on Saturday and Sunday before another Cold Front pushes across the region Sunday night, bringing another chance of precipitation.
  - Maximum temperatures will be below average
  - Minimum RH’s will be in 17% - 25% Saturday, and 25% - 30% Sunday
  - Expect Gusty NW winds on Saturday
- Moisture will return to the area again on Tuesday and linger until Thursday bringing a chance of precipitation each day.
  - Maximum temperatures will be average to above average
  - Minimum RH’s will stay above the mid 30’s
- Except for Saturday, no advisable wind events are predicted for the reporting period.
  - As always, expect gusty winds and instability as a cold front approaches, and the same plus a wind shift after the passage of the front.
- ERC-G in all FDRA’s in the region are currently average or below average for this time of year.
- 100hr and 1000hr fuel moistures in all FDRA’s in the region are currently average or above average for this time of year.
- Gusty winds and low RH’s on Saturday will aid in the drying of fuels, bringing with it increased fire danger Sunday and Monday.

Current Drought Situation

U.S. Drought Monitor
Southeast



March 24, 2015
(Released Thursday, Mar. 26, 2015)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	74.68	25.32	3.01	0.21	0.00	0.00
Last Week 3/17/2015	74.61	25.39	3.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12/23/2014	60.04	39.96	8.50	0.96	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/30/2014	85.13	14.87	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	54.60	45.40	9.31	1.20	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 3/25/2014	93.98	6.02	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00

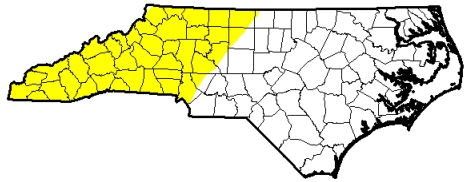
Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Eric Luebehusen
U.S. Department of Agriculture

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

U.S. Drought Monitor
North Carolina



March 24, 2015
(Released Thursday, Mar. 26, 2015)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	66.85	33.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 3/17/2015	69.76	30.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12/23/2014	46.73	53.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/30/2014	81.21	18.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	89.24	10.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 3/25/2014	97.79	2.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
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As of 24 March

National Drought Summary for

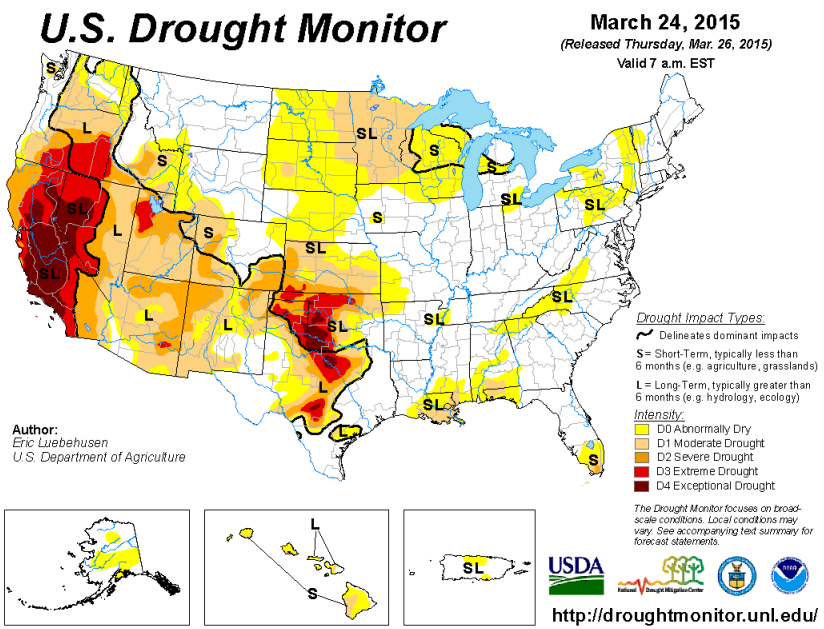
Southeast and Delta

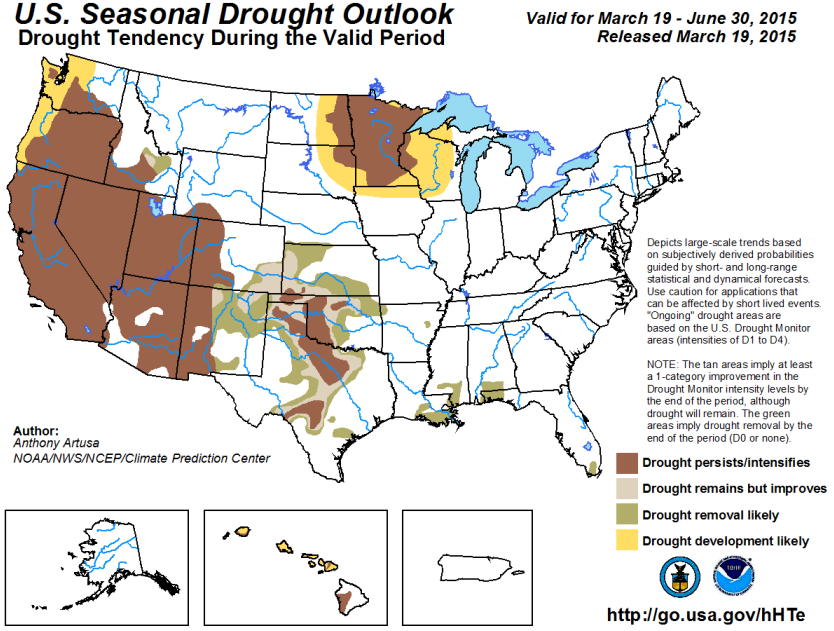
Locally heavy rainfall led to reductions in drought coverage and intensity in the mid-South, while mostly dry, warm weather caused a minor increase in Abnormal Dryness (D0) in the Carolinas and the introduction of Severe Drought (D2) in southern Florida. Moderate to heavy rain (1 to 3 inches) fell across the Gulf Coast States, though the immediate Gulf Coast remained dry except in far western Florida. Consequently, D1 (Moderate Drought) and D0 were reduced from the central and northern Delta into the Florida Panhandle. In contrast, the South's soaking rainfall bypassed south-central North Carolina, where D0 was expanded to reflect short-term dryness and streamflow's locally below the 10th percentile. Likewise, protracted short-term dryness and above-normal temperatures have caused low water levels and high salinity in the Everglades, where D2 was added

Looking Ahead

Warm, mostly dry weather over the west will contrast with chilly, wet conditions east of the Mississippi Valley. The greatest likelihood for drought-easing rainfall will be from Texas and the northern Delta into the Northeast. Spotty showers are expected over the Rockies and Northwest, though the light rain coupled with persistent warmth will not ease drought or aid spring runoff prospects. Mostly dry, warm weather is expected over California and the Southwest. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 3 – April 4 calls for near- to above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for colder-than-normal conditions across the nation's northeastern quadrant. Meanwhile, above-normal precipitation from the northern Plains and Upper Midwest into the Great Lakes and Northeast will contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in the south, particularly from California into the Four Corners and southern Plains

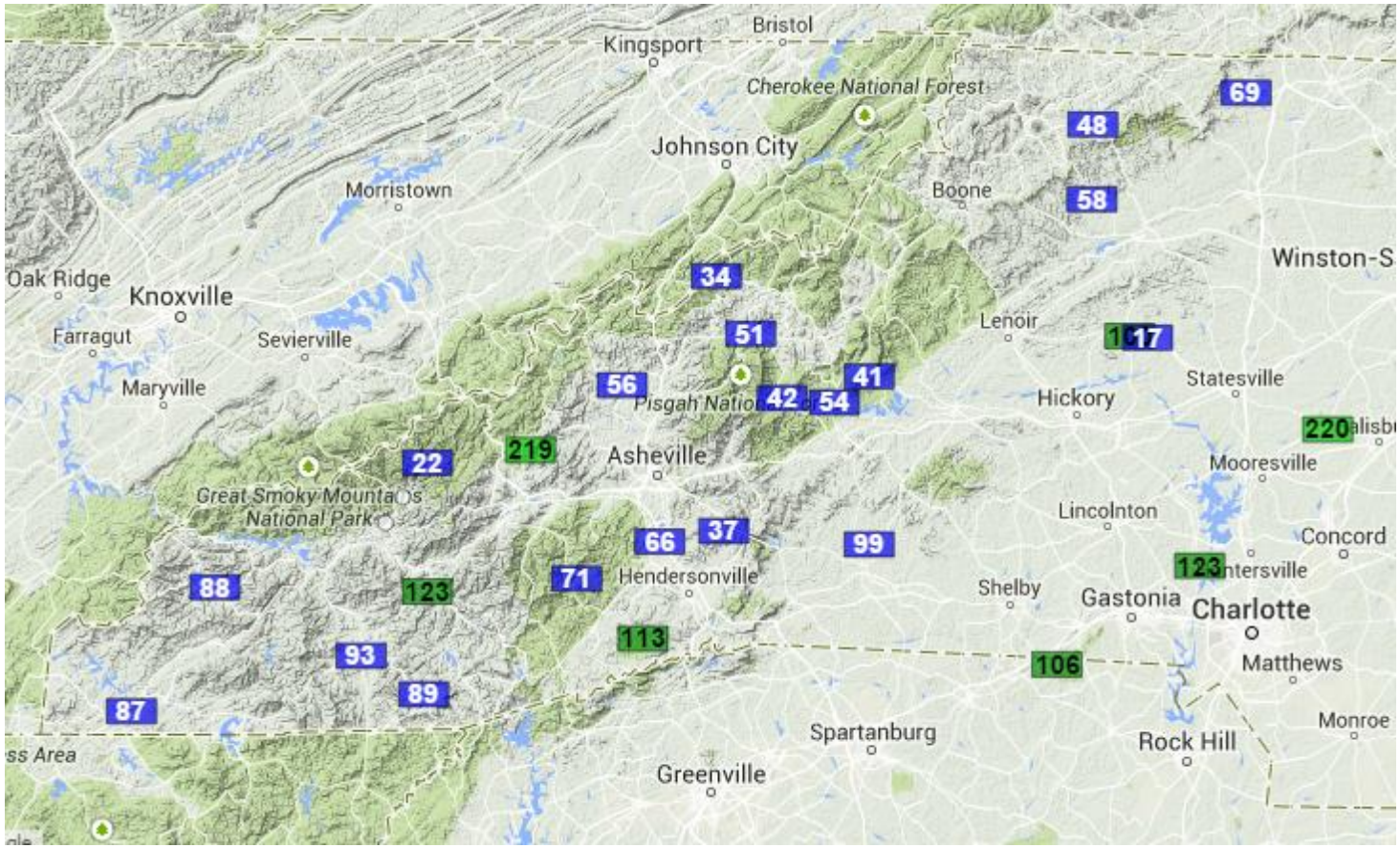
Current US Drought Monitor and Seasonal Drought Outlook





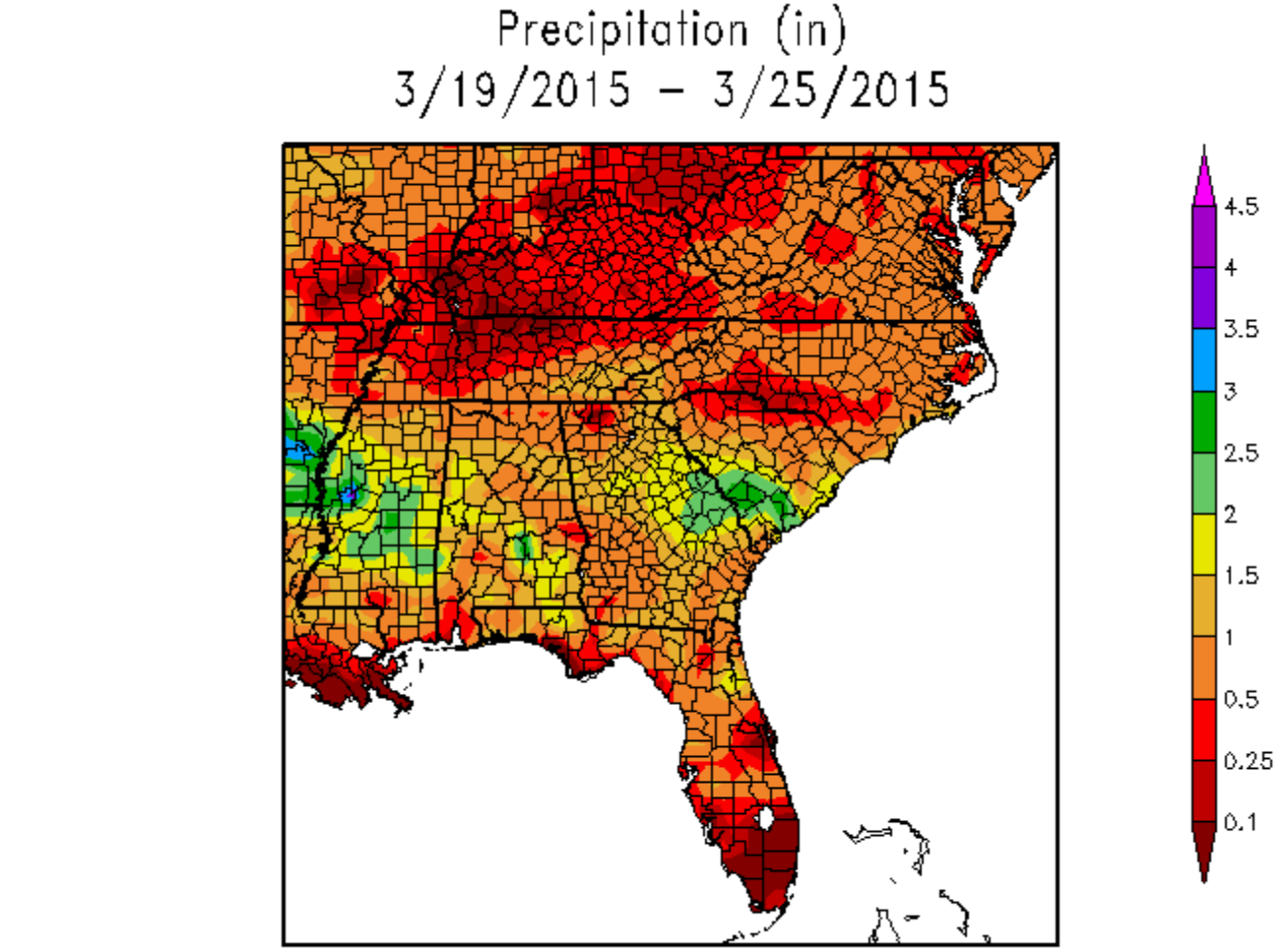
Rest of March – End of June

Current KBDI

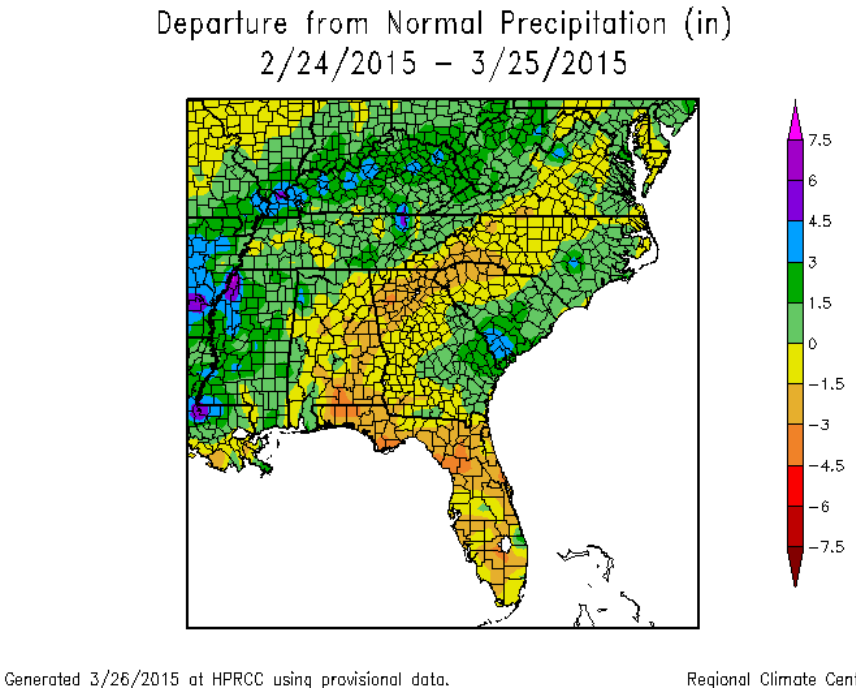


As of 3/26/2015

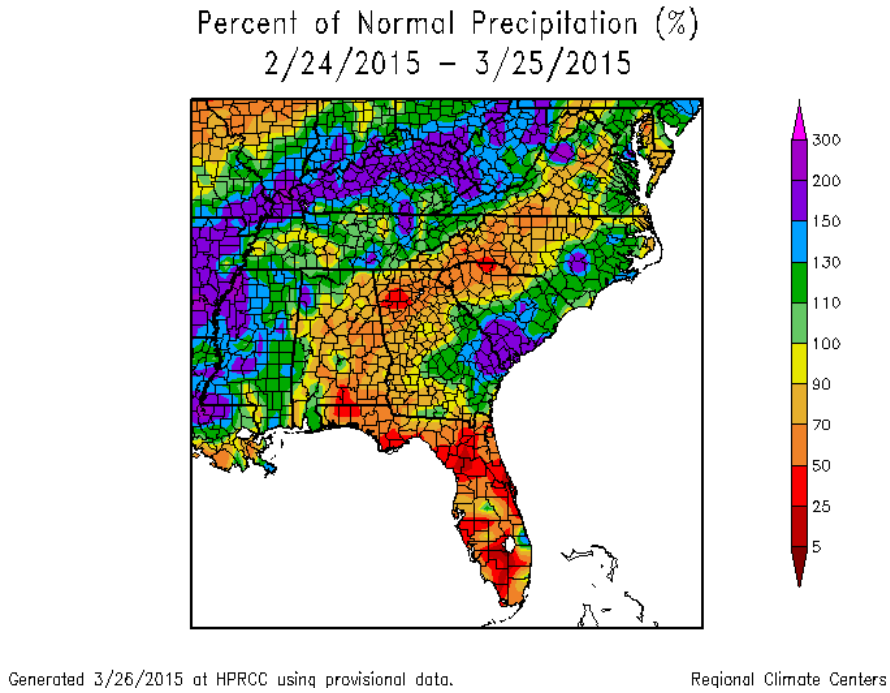
Total Precipitation Last 7 Days



Precipitation Departure from Normal's

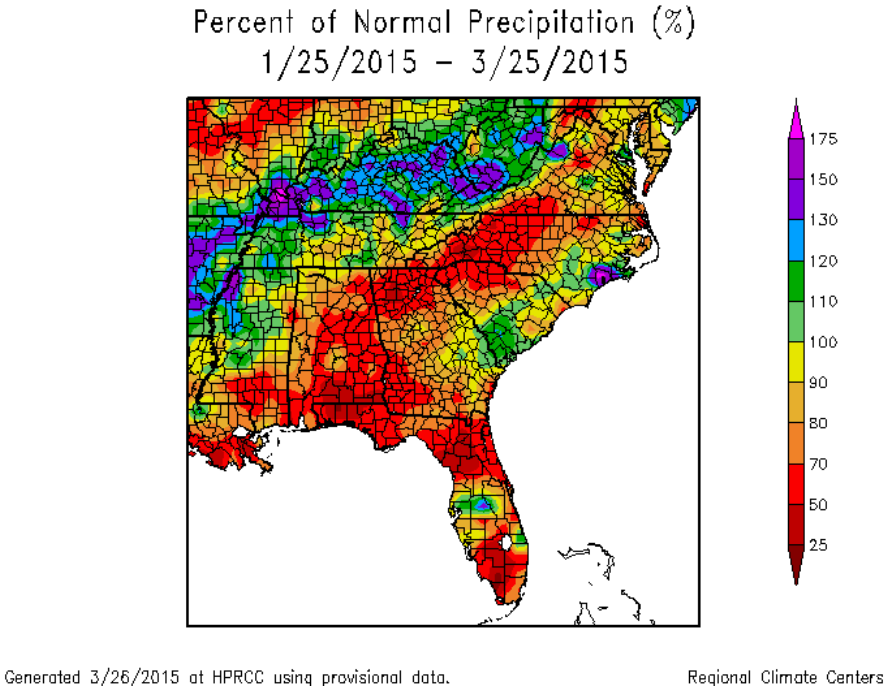


30 day departure from normal

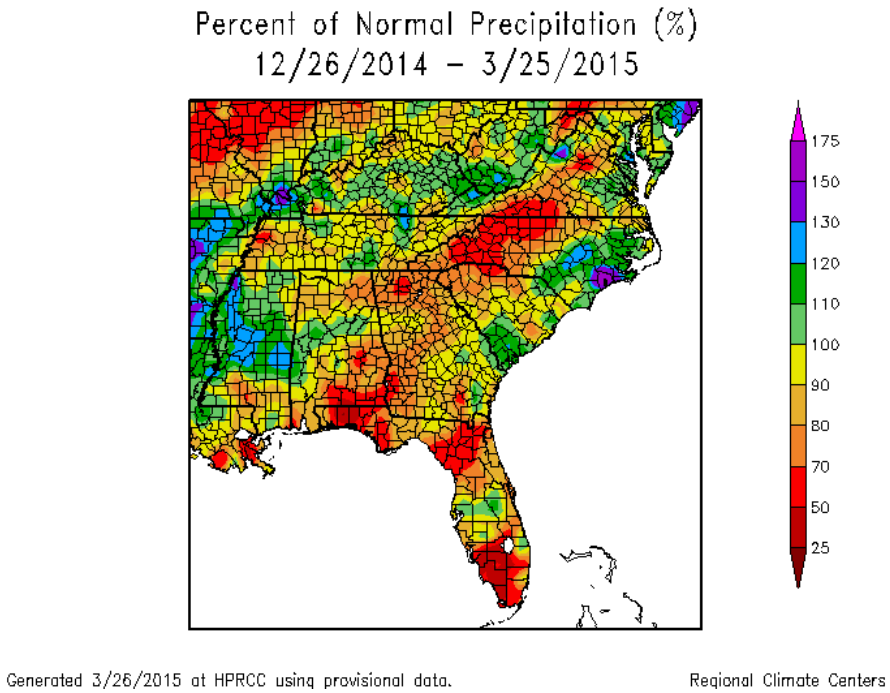


30 day percent of normal

Precipitation Departure from Normal's



60 day percent of normal



90 day percent of normal

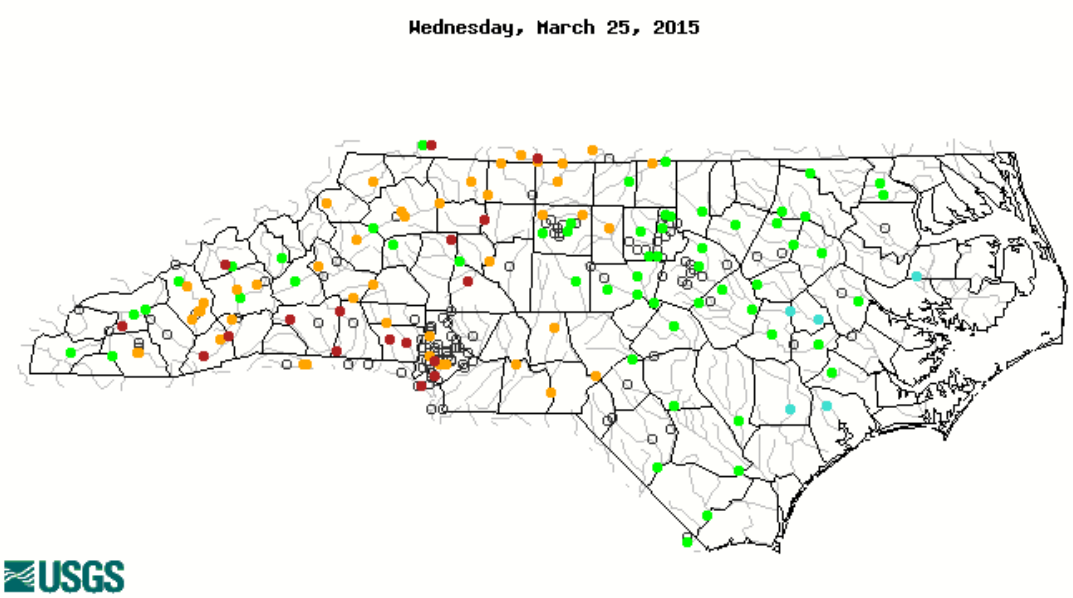
Daily Streamflow Conditions

The "7-day average streamflow" map shows the average streamflow conditions for the past seven days. By averaging over an entire week, the values on the map are more indicative of longer-term streamflow conditions than either the "Real-time streamflow" or the "Daily streamflow" maps.

The map depicts 7-day average streamflow conditions as computed at USGS stream gages. The colors represent 7-day average streamflow compared to percentiles of historical 7-day average streamflow for the day of the year. This map represents conditions adjusted for this time of the year. Only stream gages having at least 30 years of record are used.

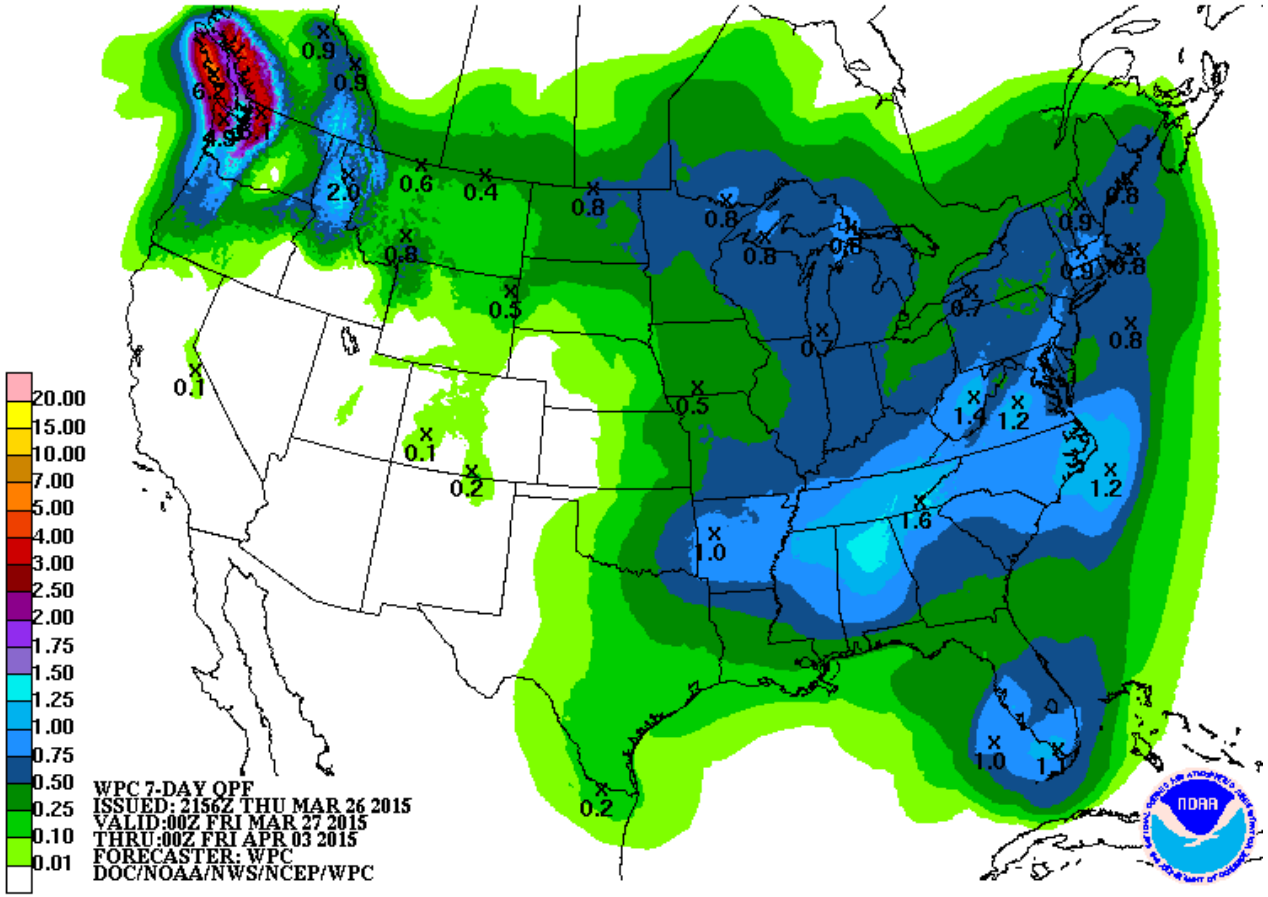
States containing no dots indicate locations where flow data for the current day are temporarily unavailable. During winter months, some states (or parts of states) may have fewer dots than at other times of the year due to ice effects.

The data used to produce this map are provisional and have not been reviewed or edited. They may be subject to significant change



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

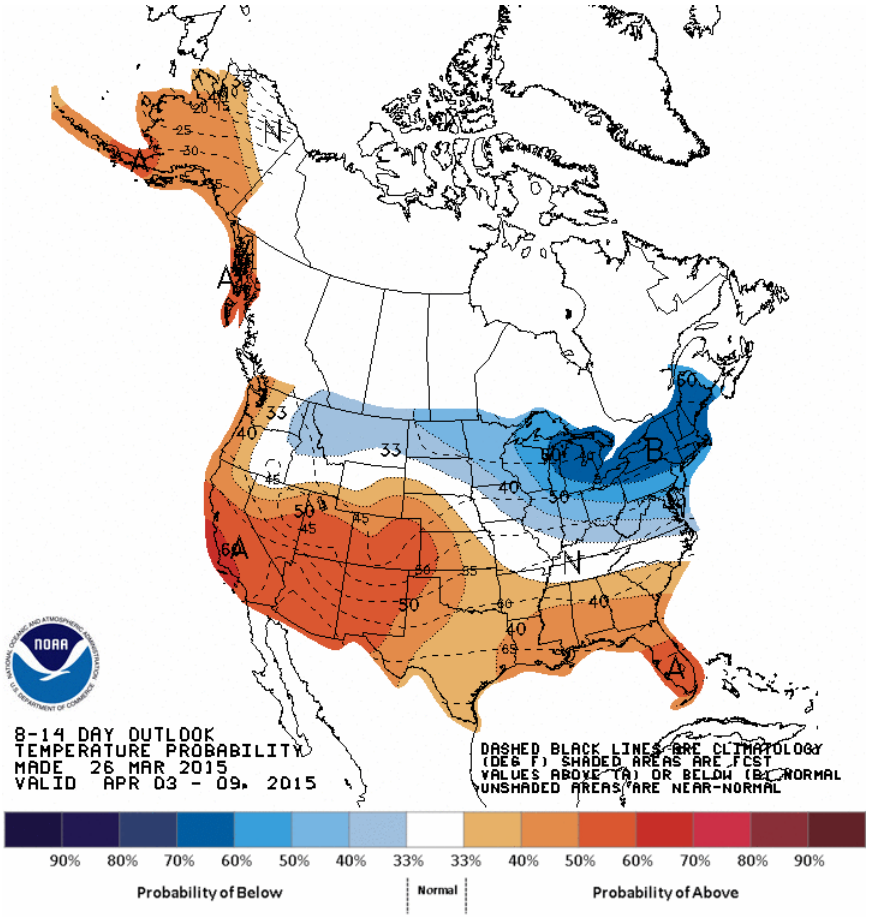
Predicted Precipitation Next 7 Days



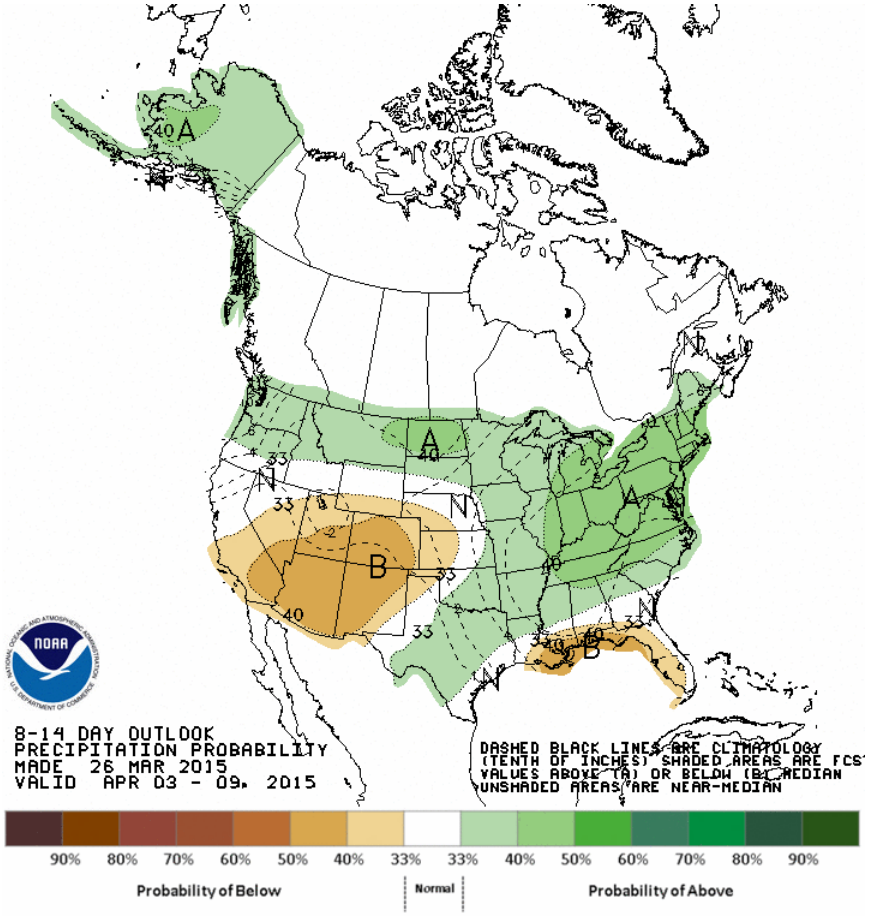
Forecast valid from 3/26 @ 1900 – 4/2 @1900

8 – 14 Day Outlook

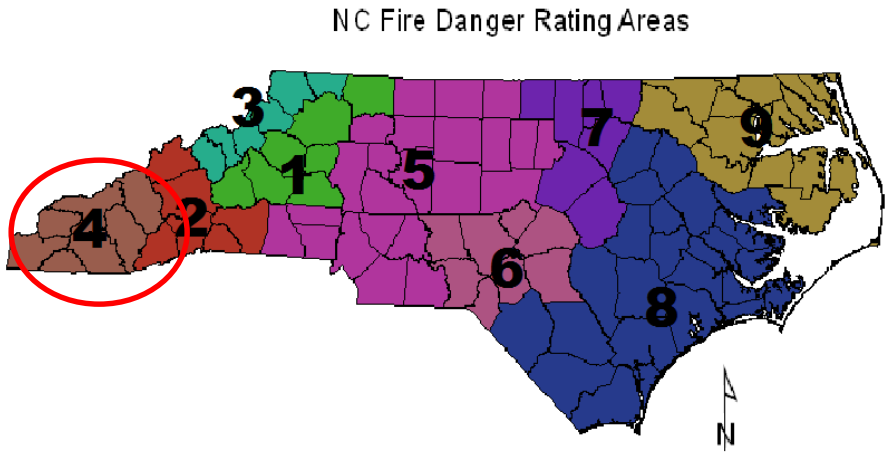
Temperature

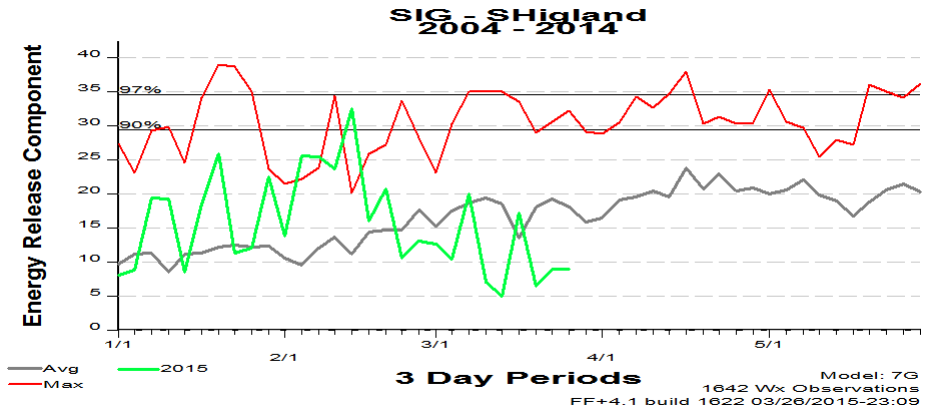


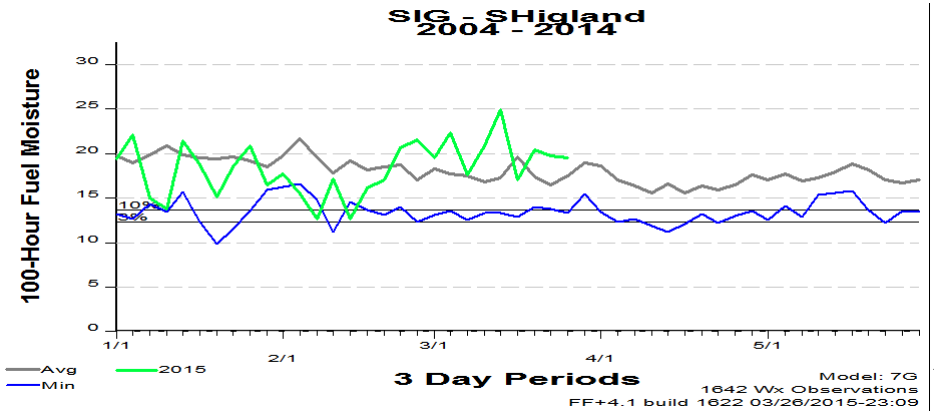
Precipitation

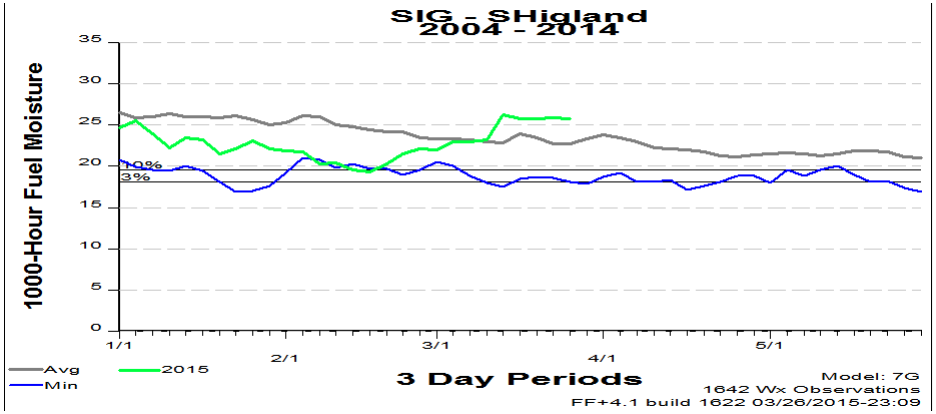


Fuel Conditions – Southern Highlands

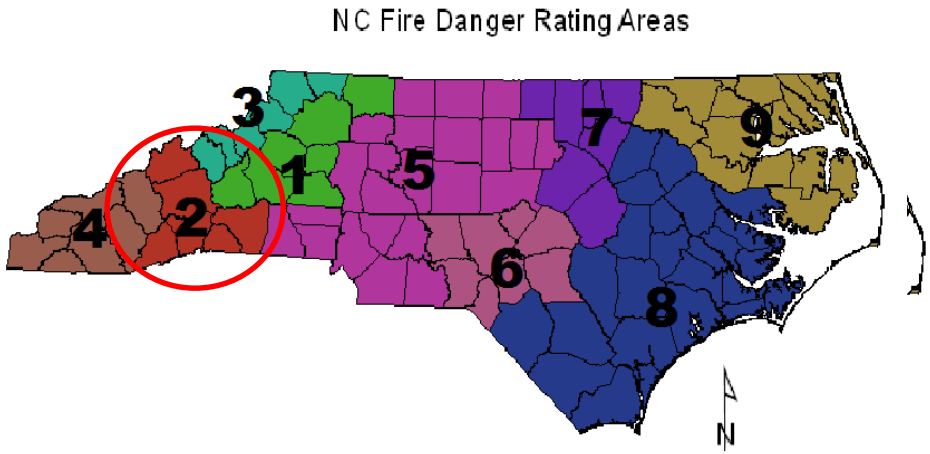


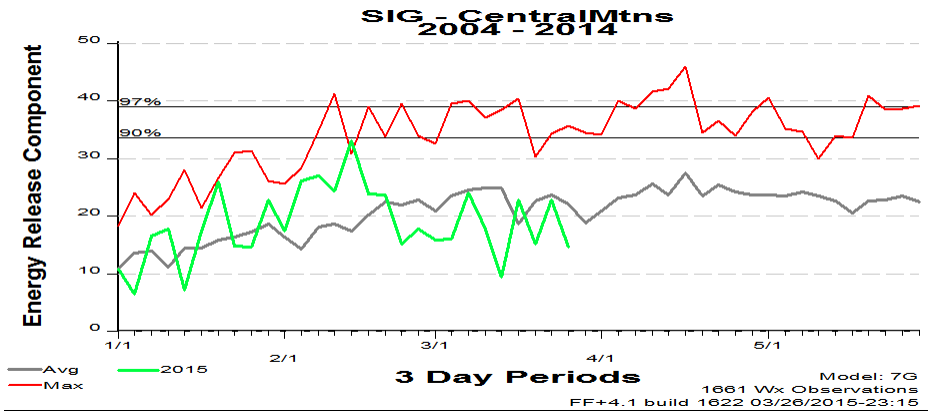


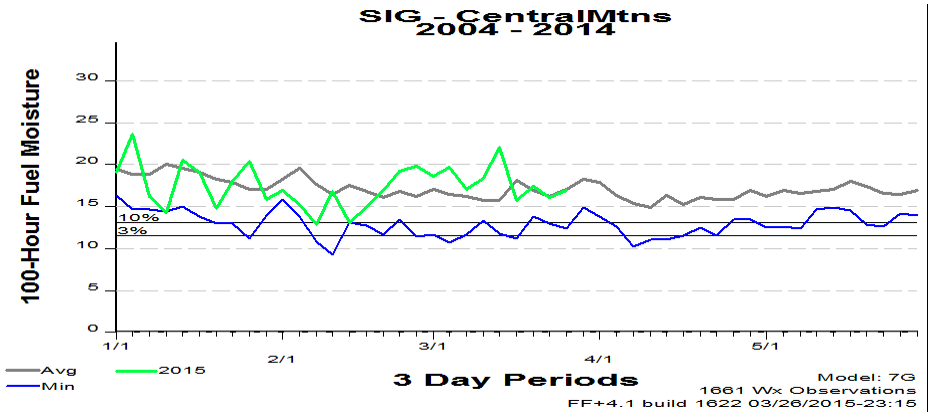


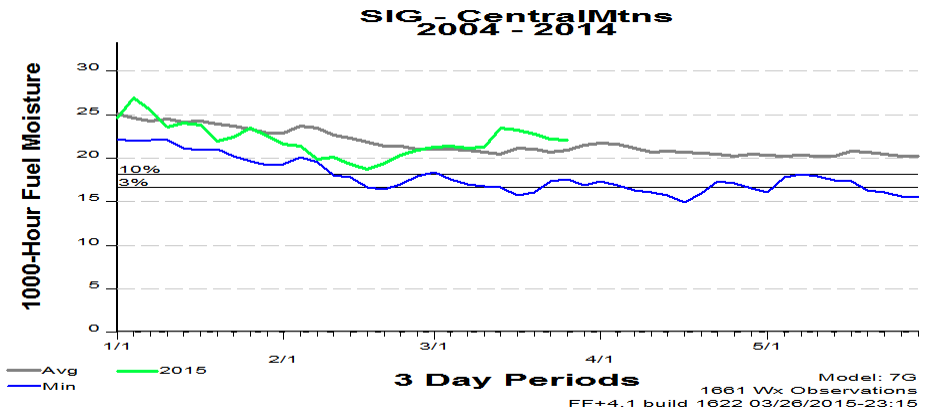


Fuel Conditions – Central Mountains

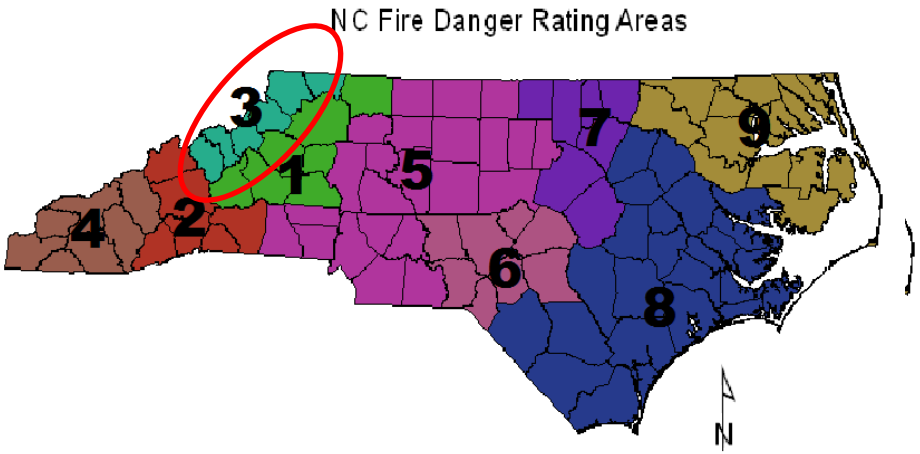


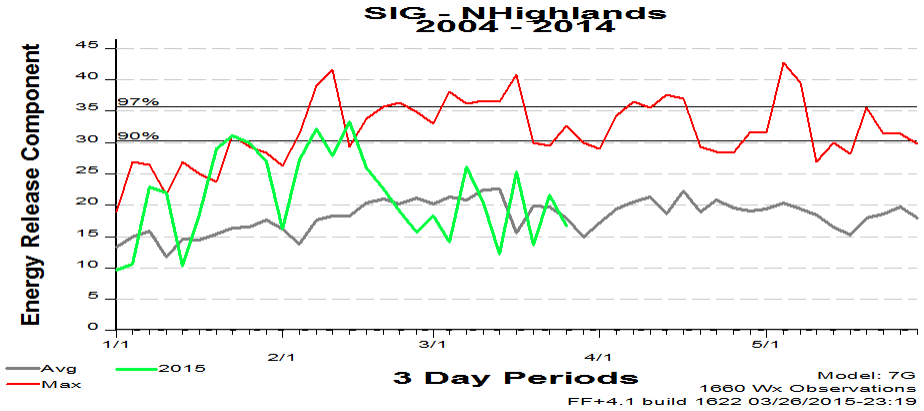


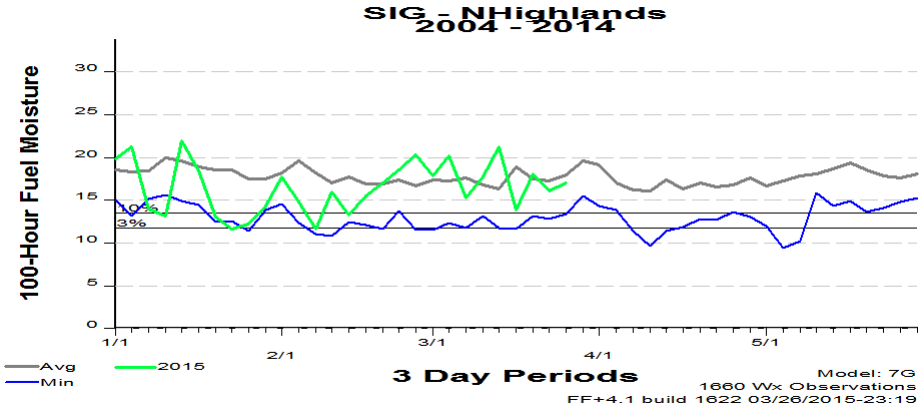


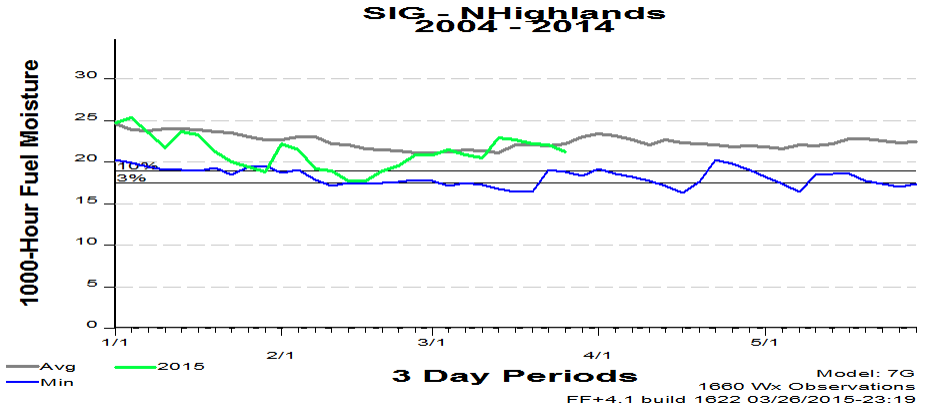


Fuel Conditions – Northern Highlands

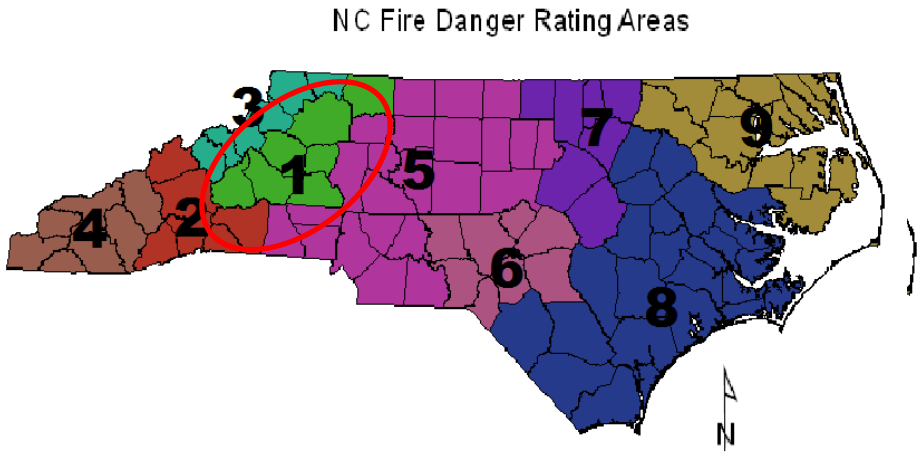


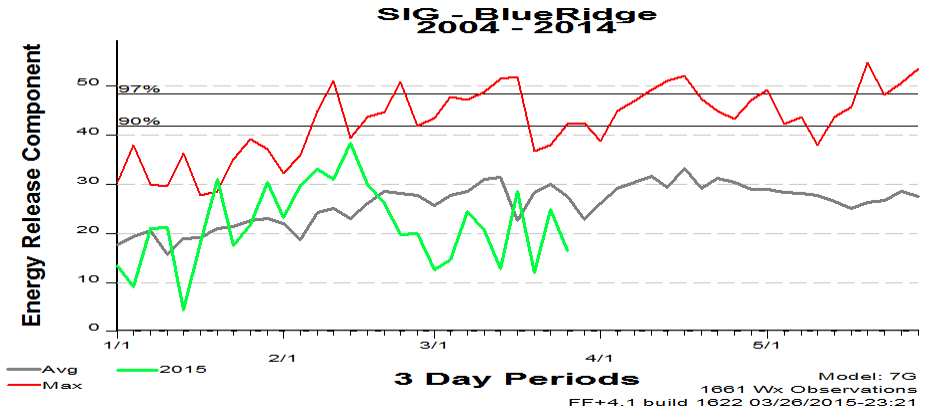


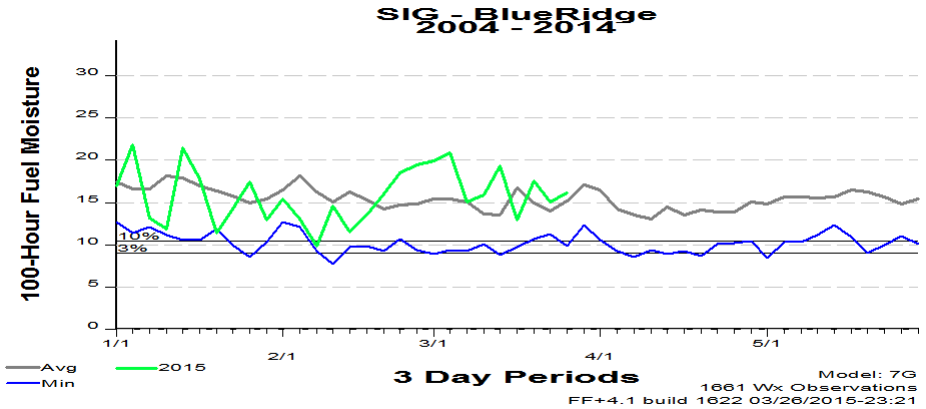


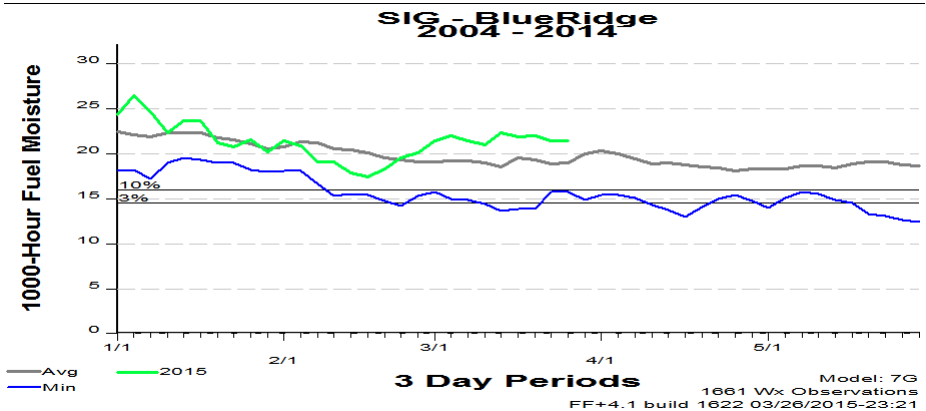


Fuel Conditions – Blue Ridge









Fuel Conditions – Western Piedmont